Adoption of quake-hit Gujarat villages

3547. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister'of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite the State's resources crunch the Chhattisgarh Government has decided to adopt an earthquake-hit village in Gujarat and the number of quake-hit villages adopted by different organisations and NGOs has touched down 123;

(b) if so, the number of quake-hit villages still left out unattended;

(c) whether the Central Government would approach other State Governments to adopt some villages for upliftment; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) As intimated by the Government of Gujarat, the Government of Chhattisgarh, has adopted one village. The State Government has also informed that it is not true that the adoption by different organizations and NGOs has touched 123.

(b) to (d)The Government of Gujarat is taking all possible relief measures in all the affected areas. As regards adoption of villages by other States, it is a matter to be voluntarily decided by those States in consultation with the Government of Gujarat.

Controlling the crop diseases

† 3548. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to take any effective steps to control the crop diseases;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when, it is likely to be implemented; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) Various schemes are being implemented by the State Governments and the Central Government for suitable plant protection measures and for safe and judicious use of pesticides for control of crops diseases. The Central Government is also promoting Integrated Pest Management (IPM) which is

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

an eco-friendly approach for minimizing the use of chemical pesticides and encompasses biological, cultural and mechanical methods for controlling the diseases. Training is imparted to master trainers, agriculture extension officers and farmers to improve their efficiency, skill and knowledge in plant protection.

Production of foodgrains

3549. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether production of foodgrains is estimated to touch the 81 lakh tonnes mark despite unfavourable weather conditions;

(b) if so, whether production of oilseeds is estimated to be 40 lakh tonnes;

(c) whether drought has adversely affected Kharif crops in various parts of the country; and

(d) if so, to what extent the foodgrains production would be sufficient to meet the needs of the country?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) The production of Kharif 2001 has not yet been assessed. However, according to the latest advance estimates, the production of foodgrains and oilseeds in 2000-01 is expected to be 196.07 million tonnes and 18.20 million tonnes respectively. The production of both foodgrains and oilseeds during 2000-01 is expected to be lower than those of the preceding year due to aberrant weather conditions.

(d) In the crop year 1999-2000, as against the normative requirement of 196.42 million tonnes of foodgrains, the production of foodgrains was 208.87 million tonnes.

Freeing the drug pricing and distribution control

3550. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to free the pricing and distribution controls in the new drug policy and that the pricing controls would be used only for a few endemic diseases like TB, etc.;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the*new decision would adversely affect the poor and the medium working classes; and